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EVENTS OF THE DAY

IN CHARGE OF

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Denver, Colorado

THE WAR AT SEA. The Declaration of London (1909), the most recent agreement among civilized nations on naval warfare, defines blockade and contraband and determines the rights of neutrals. When the war broke out, our State Department, to protect neutral trade, suggested to the rival belligerents that they abide by this Declaration. Germany agreed, but England decided to apply "certain modifications and additions." That non-compliance is back of our whole controversy with England for her blockade, which interferes with our commerce and our mails, and with Germany for her cruel and unlawful use of submarines. England insists that she has kept the spirit of international law, adjusting it to modern conditions. Germany's defense of her breach of international law is that England did it first, and her reprisals are a necessity of war.

Great Britain, shortly after the war started, with her immense navy, had driven all German merchant ships afloat into the nearest port to be interned during the war, had destroyed every enemy war ship on the high seas, and had imprisoned the great German navy in the Baltic, back of the Kiel Canal. Germany, besieged on the west, on the south and on the east, still had an outlet by sea on the north whereby she could receive supplies from neutrals. England overstepped the limits of a legal blockade and announced the whole North Sea a war zone, thus stopping up Germany's only outlet. Germany, as a reprisal for this attempt to starve her out, declared the waters surrounding Great Britain and Ireland a war zone, where her submarines (the only boats she could use) would destroy enemy merchant ships. She warned neutral ships to keep away. These blockades of England's and Germany's endangered our rightful trade and we protested vigorously. Germany issued a counter complaint concerning our selling munitions to the Allies. It is our international right to sell munitions to all nations, and to relinquish it on Germany's complaint, because she is unable to procure them, would violate our neutrality. England, finding supplies were still reaching Germany in neutral ships, instituted an extended blockade of a cordon of cruisers to search all ships with cargoes whose final destination was suspected to be Germany. Again we strongly protested this greater interference but, so far, to no effect.

Two American and several British ships with American passengers, including the *Lusitania*, in which 113 Americans were lost, were torpedoed by German submarines without warning. About 7000 lives, so far, is Germany's submarine toll, and several hundred ships, chiefly British, although neutral ships have been attacked indiscriminately. In spite of stern protests from our government, and explanations, apologies, and promises from Germany, American lives have continued to be lost until the attack last March on the *Sussex*. Then the President threatened to sever diplomatic relations with Germany unless she abandoned the illegal destruction of merchant vessels of all sorts. Germany has promised to "confine the operations of the war—to the fighting forces of the belligerents."

THE IRISH REVOLT. Late in April, a German ship containing arms was captured on the Irish coast. On board was Sir Roger Casement, an Irishman, who, after years of notable work in diplomatic service for Great Britain, had gone to Germany to appeal for aid in freeing Ireland from British rule. Almost coincidentally, a sudden revolt broke out in Dublin of the Sinn Feiners. With England needing all her troops, with German coöperation, and with American money, the opportunity seemed golden to this group of young idealists. They took the Dublin postoffice, and a few other strategic points, issued a Proclamation of the Irish Republic and chose a provisional president. After a few days of bloodshed they surrendered. Dublin was placed under martial law. Four leaders, including the provisional president (all poets and scholars), were tried at once by court martial and summarily shot. Executions and imprisonment of the leaders followed so quickly that an outcry arose against such drastic measures. Premier Asquith, and later Lloyd-George, went personally to Dublin to cope with the situation. A measure of self-government is contemplated for Ireland during the remainder of the war. The Home Rule bill, just passed when the war began, has been postponed.

THE WOMEN'S CONVENTION. The thirteenth biennial convention of the General Federation of Women's Clubs took place the last of May in New York. There were 2446 delegates in this largest convention of women the country has ever seen. Among the many interesting recommendations was the suggestion that the women of the United States take the first step in internationalism by calling a great congress of women of the Americas for 1920, in behalf of world peace. Another was a standardization and simplification of women's street gowns. Thirty-three of the state clubs have endorsed equal suffrage.